Technical Development Fund Scheme

5194. SHRI RAMDAS AGARWAL: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have provided funds under the Technical Development Fund Scheme;

(b) if so, the names of the States which have been given financial assistance, together with the amount given during the last three years, till date under the above mentioned scheme;

(c) whether Government have been, from time to time, supervising/ checking the progress made by the projects which are covered under the Technical Development Fund Scheme; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (DR. RAMAN): (a) In order to promote technological upgradation and mordemisation of Industry, Ministry of Commerce and Industry has been operating Technical Development Fund Scheme (TDF) since 1976. The TDF has a loan component of US $ 100 million sanctioned by World Bank.

(b) Under this scheme, no approval has been granted during the last three years.

(c) and (d) For the scheme, central monitoring agency is industrial Development Bank of lndia (IDBI). IDBI monitors the projects and centralises all documentation to lodge claims through Ministry of Finance to the World Bank for reimbursement.

Incentives for Export Under Exim Policy

5195. SHRI RAMDAS AGARWAL: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether like China, Japan and Korea, Government are paying more attention on exports and consider it as an integral and important part of our economic development;

(b) if so, what steps Government have taken so far to ensure that on export-side we must be commercially attractive and on domestic-side our production is of international standard and costs are comparable as is the case with the above mentioned countries; and

(c) what special incentives India's latest Exim Policy offers for increasing our exports during 2000-2001 as compared to 1999-2000?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) Various measures are taken in the Exim Policy for 2000-2001 to promote exports. These include setting up of Special Economic Zones, rationalization of existing Export Promotion Schemes,-encouragement to export of quality/branded goods, procedural simplifications, decentralization in decision making and reduction of interface between exporters and Government Organisations through the facility of electronic filing of application at several port offices. Further, Government extend support and assistance to trade and industry to attend internationally accepted standards of quality for their products and also to promote the concept of total quality management. A separate chapter on Brand promotion and quality has been included in the Exim Policy.

Rubber Cultivation in Orissa

5196. SHRI ANANTA SETHI: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) the total hectares of land brought under rubber cultivation in the State of Orissa as on date;

(b) whether rubber plantation was affected due to cyclone in 1999;

(c) if so, the steps taken to repair the damage;

(d) whether Government have a proposal to bring additional hectares of land under rubber plantation in the State; and

(e) if so, the target fixed therefor?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN): (a) The total area under rubber cultivation in Orissa as on date is 435.46 ha.

(b) Rubber plantations to an extent of about 100 ha. in the districts of Dhenkanal, Cuttack and Khurda were damaged by the cyclone.

(c) Plantations raised from 1993 onwards are covered by Plantation Insurance Scheme and accordingly admissible compensation have been paid to the growers. The plantations raised before 1993 are not covered under the Insurance Scheme. The Board is, however, providing assistance like free